

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /072 W
-----081623Z 125336 /45

O P 081437Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1370
AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, AU
SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA: PAPADOPOULOS' Q AND A
SESSION WITH PRESS, APRIL 7, VIENNA

REF: VIENNA 2797

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN MID-AFTERNOON APRIL 7, PAPADOPOULOS,
HEAD OF GREEK-CYPRIOT DELEGATION TO CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS IN
VIENNA, FIRST READ STATEMENT (REFTEL) AND THEN TOOK QUESTIONS
FROM PRSS. UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF HIS Q AND A SESSION
FOLLOWS.

2. Q. SO YOU WERE DISAPPOINTED, MR. PAPADOPOULOS?
A. LET'S SAY THAT THE OUTCOME DID NOT LIVE UP TO THE
EXPECTATIONS THAT WERE CREATED IN EVERYONE'S
MIND ON THE BASIS OF THE ASSURANCES GIVEN AS TO THE
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NATURE OF THE TALKS THAT WE HAVE BEEN HAVING HERE.

Q. WELL, NOW YOU ARE GOING TO CONTINUE THE TALKS.
DO YOU SEE ANY BETTER CHANGE OR RESOLUTION OF SOME
OF YOUR DIFFERENCES?

A. AS I SAID I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC AT THIS POINT BUT

OPTIMISTIC OR NOT I STILL THINK THATE WE SHOULD TRY
AND TRY AND TRY AGAIN.

Q. AFTER THESE ROUNDS OF TALKS, DO YOU SEE A SOLUTION
OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WITHIN 1977, IS IT STILL POSSIBLE?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE THE TIME IS ALL THAT IMPORTANT.
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS A CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE AS TO
THE TALKS AND A CHANGE IN THE STANCE THAT HAD BEEN
DEMONSTRATED DURING THESE TALKS.

Q. IN NICOSIA, WILL YOU CONTINUE A DISCUSSION
AS YOU HAVE HAD HERE OR IS IT JUST A NEW TYPE OF DISCUSSION
OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS OR IS IT JUST A CONTINUATION OF
THE VIENNA DISCUSSIONS?

A. TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE NECESSARY SHOULD
THERE BE ANY CONVENTIONAL USE, ANY COMMON GROUND,
ANY NECESSITY TO VERIFY ANY OF THE DATA OF FACTS SINCE
THESE DID NOT EMERGE, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE
TALKING IN THE SAME WAY WE HAVE BEEN DOING HERE,
HOPING THAT THERE WILL BE A SHIFTING OF ATTITUDESS.

Q. ABSOLUTELY NO COMMON GROUND APPEARED AT THIS MEETING?

A. IF THERE WAS ANY, IT WAS SO DISGUISED THAT I DID
NOT NOTICE IT.
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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA, MR. PAPADOPOULOS, HOW MUCH
TERRITORY THE TURKISH SIDE IS WILLING TO GIVE UP?

A. THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE. I HAD COME HERE
HOPING THAT A CLEARER PICTURE WOULD EMERGE AS TO THE
VIEWS OF THE TURKISH SIDE ON TERRITORY. UNFORTUNATELY
NOW, AT THE MOMENT THAT I AM TALKING TO YOU, AND AFTER ALL OF
THESE TALKS IN VIENNA, I AN NOT ANY WISER THAN I WAS
BEFORE I CAME HER AS TO WHAT THE REAL AND FINAL VIEWS
OF THE TURKISH SIDE ON TERRITORY ARE.

Q. MR. PAPADOPOULOS, TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE THIS
POSITION OF THE TURKISH SIDE NOT TO COMPLY WITH THE
TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.

A. IT WAS STATED DURING THE TALKS THAT THE TURKISH
SIDE EITHER WAS UNWILLING AT THIS POINT OR UNABLE TO
GIVE US A CLEAEER INDICATION AS TO WHAT THEIR VIEWS

ON TERRITORY ARE. WHAT THE RESULTS ARE FOR THIS
COURSE I CANNOT SAY. I THINK THEY MUST HAVE THEIR
REASONS, AND THEY MUST BE VERY SERIOUS IF THEY HAD COME
HERE AFTER ALL THE ASSURANCES THEY HAD GIVEN IN CYPRUS
AND YET DID NOT COMPLY WITH THESE ASSURANCES.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT THE NEWS OF THE TURKISH ELECTIONS
THAT ARE TO BE HELD ON THE 5TH OF JUNE, IN TWO MONTHS TIME,
AFFECTED THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND POSSIBLY
INHIBITED THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DELEGATION FROM MAKING A
PROPOSAL?

A. I CONFESS I AM LEAST COMPETENT TO COMMENT ON
TURKISH INTERNAL POLITICS. UNFORTUNATELY, I DO NOT
KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT IT BUT MY PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT THE SCHEDULING
OF THE TURKISH ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT IN
ITSELF BE EITHER A CONVENIENCE OR A GOOD REASON
WHY WE SHOULD NOT MAKE PROGRESS IN AT LEAST LAYING THE
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FRAMEWORK OF A SOLUTION, TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE
GOVERNMENT THAT EMERGES AFTER THE TURKISH ELECTIONS.
I ALSO REMEMBER THAT I READ IN SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS
THAT FOR TURKEY THE CYPRUS QUESTION IS CONSIDERED
A NATIONAL PROBLEM ON WHICH THE MAJOR PARTIES SEEM
TO HAVE THE SAME VIEWS.

Q. MR. PAPADOPOULOS, DID YOU DISCUSS DID YOU RAISE
THE QUESTION OF THE MISSING PERSONS AND WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

A. WELL, THE QUESTION OF THE MISSING PERSONS WAS RAISED
DURING THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN MR. DENKTASH AND
ARCHBISHOP MARKARIOS WHERE IT WAS AGREED THAT AN
INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE SET UP IN AN EFFORT
TO ASCERTAIN THE FATE OF THE MISSING PERSONS. BEFORE
I CAME HERE I HAD GIVEN WARNING THROUGH THE UNITED
NATIONS THAT I WANTED THE SETTING UP OF THIS COMMITTEE,
THE MECHANICS OF ITS OPERATION AND THE THINGS TO
PRECEDE ITS SETTING UP TO BE DISCUSSED. I TRIED TO
DISCUSS IT BUT MR. ONAN SAID THAT SINCE THIS WAS NOT

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07

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ON OUR FORMAL AGENDA, HE WAS NOT READY OR WILLING TO DISCUSS IT.

Q. DID YOU DISCUSS OTHER SUBJECTS EXCEPT THOSE OR SUBJECTS REFERRED TO SPECIFICALLY IN THESE MEETINGS?

A. WE ONLY DISCUSSED THE POLITICAL ASPECTS AND BY POLITICAL I MEAN CONSTITUTIONAL AS WELL AS TERRITORIAL ASPECTS. ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT WERE RAISED I UNDERTOOK AND MR. ONAN, ON HIS SIDE, UNDERTOOK TO CONSIDER THE POINTS RAISED BUT NO OTHER TALKS TOOK PLACE ON THESE MATTERS.

Q. MR. PAPADOPOULOS, YOU SAID THAT YOU RECEIVED ASSURANCES ABOUT SUBSTANTIVE AND MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS IS A QUESTION OF SEMANTICS. THE WORDS BEING USED ON YOUR SIDE AND ON THE OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIDE. NOW WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOU GOT ASSURANCES, DID YOU GET A CLARIFICATION, CLEAR CUT, FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ABOUT THIS?

A. YES, I DID. IN FACT, THERE WAS A STATEMENT DICTATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH WAS CONVEYED TO ME AND THE UNITED NATIONS WERE ASSURED THAT THE MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED TO ME AND IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS SO CONVEYED. HOWEVER, IT WAS VERY, VERY CLEAR ON OUR SIDE THAT MERELY COMMENTS ON THEIR PROPOSALS OR MERELY REJECTION

NO MATTER HOW EXTENSIVE THE REJECTION MIGHT BE WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS MEANINGFUL, AND SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS. AND WE WERE ASSURED THAT HER WE WOULD NOT BE RECEIVING MERE COMMENTS OR JUST ARGUMENTS WHY OUR PROPOSALS WERE NOT ACCEPTED.

Q. WERE THESE ORAL ASSURANCES OR WRITTEN ASSURANCES?

A. NO, ORAL ASSURANCES BUT TQEY WERE READ TO

ME BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT SHOULD BE DONE NOW TO GET THESE TALKS MOVING?

A. IT SEEMS THAT THE OTHER SIDE EXPECTS ME ON THE TERRITORIAL ASPECT TO SUBMIT ONE MORE PROPOSAL. IF THEY DON'T LIKE IT, THEY SAY, SORRY, NO GOOD, TRY AGAIN. THEN I PREPARE ANOTHER ONE. THEY REJECT IT AND ASK METO TRY AGAIN AND THIS GOES ON UNTIL I MANAGE TO DEVISE WHAT THEY WANT WHICH WOULD COMPLY WITH WHAT THEIR MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM REQUIREMENTS ARE. TO ME, THIS IS NOT A PROPER NEGOTIATING PROCESS. NO INTELLIGIBLE NEGOTIATIONS CAN TAKE PLACE. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT BEFORE THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCESS CAN BE ESTABLISHED EACH SIDE SHOULD FULLY KNOW THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER SO WE CAN ESTABLISH THE GAP BETWEEN US, ITS MAGNITUDE, ITS DEPTH, ITS DIMENSIONS AND THEN AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE EACH OTHERS VIEWS AND FIND THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION. BUT BEFORE KNOWING THE

LIMITS OF THE OTHER SIDE'S POINT OF VIEW I REALLY FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW I CAN HELP IN BEING MORE HELPFUL IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MY SIDE.

IF SUCH MESSAGE WAS GIVEN, I WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE IT OR IF IT WAS GIVEN, IT WAS SO WELL DISGUISED THAT IT COULD NOT BE DISCERNED, AT LEAST BY ME.

Q. THANK YOU.

END TEXT. MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, MEETING DELEGATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENNA02837
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770123-0477
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770472/aaaackqs.tel
Line Count: 273
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1662bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 VIENNA 2797
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2851557
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA: PAPADOPOULOS' Q AND A SESSION WITH PRESS, APRIL 7, VIENNA
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, AU, (PAPADOPOULOS, TASSOS)
To: STATE ATHENS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1662bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009